

The reference to bacteria with DNA slime is Catlin~~x~~ and Cunningham, J. General Microbiology, 19:522, 1958. I think one might reasonably expect to develop a convenient agglutination technique for the rapid detection of anti-DNA antibodies. Werner Braun was visiting today, and I was impressed by his present insistence that the immune anti-DNA sera he has been getting are species-specific, also that the antigen is destroyed by periodate as well as by DNAase, and is then presumably some poly-carbohydrate-nucleotide complex. So he is not mimicking LE insofar as this involves some degree of auto-immunity.

Art Kornberg has enthusiastically agreed to help in any effort I might make to develop the anti-DNA sera as cytochemical reagents, and in particular to test them for their reaction with synthetic poly(A,T) polymers. He now has evidence that these are predominantly chains with A and T alternating, (also in complementary double helix?): A-T-A-T-.... I would therefore be very much obliged to you for samples, as you offered to send, of LE sera and particularly refined preps. eluted from DNA precipitates. I do not have fluorescinated anti-human globulin immediately to hand, and as it may take some time to order or prepare this, it would be a substantial favor if you could send us some of this reagent for a starter, but don't take any trouble over it. We should be moving soon to new labs and the event might delay some of the trials, but we will get into it as expeditiously as possible.

Yours sincerely,

H. Kunkel, H.

MEMO FROM
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